

## 2000 Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame Class of Inductees

### Ben Martin

Known as the Father of Falcon Football, Ben Martin became the first head coach of the United States Air Force Academy football team in 1958. In their remarkable first season, Martin led the upstart Falcons to an undefeated record (9-0-2) and a berth in the Cotton Bowl, where they battled heavily favored Texas Christian University to a scoreless tie. Air Force finished the season ranked sixth in the national polls, earning immediate respect for the first-year program.

In 20 years as head coach at the U.S. Air Force Academy - the longest tenure of any football coach in service academy history - Martin amassed a career record of 96-103-9 and coached 10 All-Americans. In addition to the 1959 Cotton Bowl, Martin guided the Falcons to the 1965 Gator Bowl and the 1971 Sugar Bowl.

Though he retired as head coach of the U.S. Air Force Academy following the 1977 season, Martin has remained active in college football as an analyst for ABC Sports and, most recently, the Falcon Radio Network. His work as a color commentator has spanned portions of two decades.